

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Drawings were objected to as containing reference numbers that are handwritten and "hard to read"; Claims 4, 15, and 16 were objected to regarding various informalities; and Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,737,395 to Irribarren (hereinafter "the '395 patent").

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants' representative on April 29, 2004, at which time Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 were discussed. However, no agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further consideration of the claims upon formal submission of a response to the outstanding Office Action.

In response to the objection to the Drawings, submitted herewith are Replacement Sheets for Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10. Accordingly, the objection to the Drawings is believed to have been overcome.

In response to the objection to the claims, Claims 4 and 15 have been amended in the manner suggested in the Office Action. In addition, Claim 16 has been amended to correct the informality noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objections to the claims are believed to have been overcome.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a network fax machine for faxing files received from a remote client, comprising: (1) a server unit configured to send a fax document form to a remote client and configured to receive fax information *entered on the fax document form*

from the remote client, the fax information including an identifier corresponding to a destination fax machine and a file to be faxed to the destination fax machine; and (2) a fax control unit configured to use the identifier to connect the network fax machine to the destination fax machine and configured to send the file to the destination fax machine by facsimile communication. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the server unit is configured to receive fax information entered on the fax document form from the remote client. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

The '395 patent is directed to a communication system comprising a voice message system for storing and retrieving voice messages and facsimile data. The '395 patent discloses a voice message system 102 that allows a user to log in and receive messages, as shown in Figure 3D. Further, the '395 patent discloses a system in which the user may forward a fax to a destination fax machine or convert and send an e-mail as a fax, as shown in Figures 4 and 7. Thus, the '395 patent discloses that the phone number of the destination fax machine may be entered by the user. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '395 patent fails to disclose a server unit configured to receive, from a remote client, fax information entered on a fax document form, wherein the fax information includes an identifier and *a file to be faxed to the destination fax machine*. Rather, the '395 patent merely discloses that a user can forward facsimile or e-mail messages *already resident on the server* to a destination fax machine. The '395 patent fails to disclose that a server is configured to send a fax document form to a remote client, and to receive fax information entered on the fax document form from the remote client, wherein the information includes the file to be faxed, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2-7) as anticipated by the '395 patent.

¹ See, e.g., Figure 4 and the description related therein in the specification.

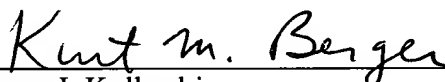
Independent Claims 8, 13, and 15 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 8, 13, and 18 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 8, 13, and 18 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the '395 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '395 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for a formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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